

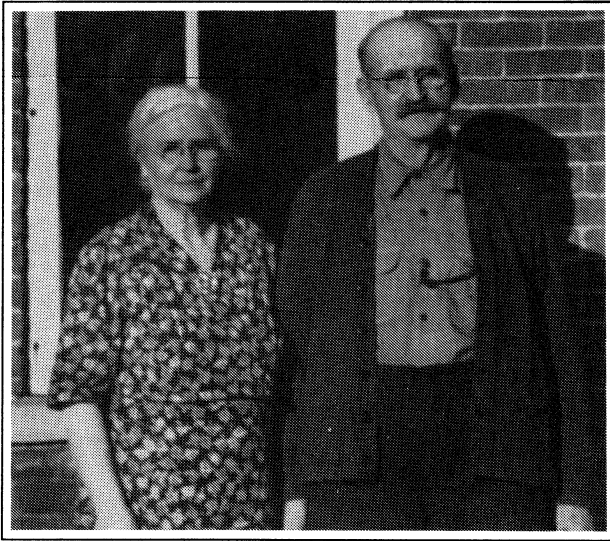


Middletown Springs Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 1

January 1990

***Lobdell Bequest
To Start Memorial Fund***



Martha J. and Horace Greeley Lobdell

The \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Dr. Irene A. Lobdell in memory of her father, Horace Greeley Lobdell, announced last April, has been received by the Middletown Springs Historical Society. The Trustees are discussing establishment of a Memorial Fund, using some of the Lobdell bequest and funds given in memory of Edmund Ritchie. Additional bequests, memorial donations and dividends would increase the fund to a certain limit. Only then would earnings be used for Society projects and expenses. This "nest egg" would help to ensure the Society's future.

Social at Priscilla's

Priscilla and Doyle Lane hosted a Historical Society social at their inn in the beautifully restored Leonidas Gray House. On January 17, stonemason Michael Fannin gave a progress report on the restoration of the Old Cemetery to invited guests representing each town organization.

Many individuals and several organizations, including the Volunteer Firemen, the Congregational Corporation, the Historical Society and the Garden Club contributed to a \$1,500 matching Cemetery Restoration fund approved at the 1989 Town Meeting. This March voters again will be asked to authorize a similar vote so Fannin can continue the work in 1990.

The Trustees of the Society are planning a second social in February at Priscilla's Victorian Inn.

***Cultural Facilities Grant
Announced***

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has offered the Society a \$2,300 matching grant for expanding the Museum into the auditorium area of the Community House. Plans call for restoration of the stage area, setting up a display area for farm implements and school alumni memorabilia. Donations to the Building Fund are needed to match this generous grant.

Work on the auditorium interior and roof was started last winter and will resume after the grant contract is signed sometime this spring. We will need volunteers to help us insulate, sheet rock and finish the room.

School Addition Revote Wednesday, January 24

By a narrow margin on November 16, 1989, voters approved a \$540,000 Bond Issue for a renovation and addition project to the Middletown Springs School. A petition to rescind the vote signed by many voters has forced a vote to reconsider, which the selectmen warned for January 24.

At their January 4 meeting, the Society Trustees, noting the approval of the design for the addition by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, passed a resolution in support of the project as "an architecturally fitting complement to the 1904 building, a landmark in the Middletown Springs Historic District."

Historical Society Membership Information

Dues are (check on):

Single....\$4.00 Family....\$5.00
 Contributing....\$10 Sustaining....\$50.00
 Life....\$100

Membership Renewals for 1990: Please send your renewal to Suzanne Gott, Treasurer.

Donations

- The Building Fund \$ _____
(Please make check payable to
"Building Fund--M.S.H.S.")
- The Old Cemetery Fund \$ _____
(Please make check payable to
"Old Cemetery Fund--M.S.H.S.")

Copies of Frisbie's *History of Middletown* are available for \$8.00 each.

Send to: Suzanne Gott, Treasurer
 Middletown Springs Historical Society
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deja Vu--All Over Again?

Hazel Grover contributed the following clipping. Does anyone remember the exact date this ran in the *Rutland Herald*? We think it appeared sometime in the 1920's. The School Board would like to know the secret of the final sentence!

MIDDLETOWN STIRRED ON SCHOOL PROBLEM

Special Meeting Called On
Schoolhouse Addition
Proposal.

(Special to The Herald.)

Middletown Springs, Aug. 27.—Voters of this town, who have children of school age, are facing a problem which has not been generally understood until the last few weeks. Either the voters must authorize the building of an addition to the present schoolhouse or a two-session program will be necessary and this latter alternative means a real hardship to the hill farmers who would have carry part of their children to the morning and others for the afternoon session.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation the selectmen of the town have called a special meeting for Wednesday at the Community house when the question of building the proposed addition will be threshed out. Some time ago the voters defeated a similar proposition but since that time there has been a marked change in sentiment.

When questioned about the problem today a member of the school board said: "We are compelled by conditions to build more space or to utilize the same space twice. A two-session program is at best an unsatisfactory makeshift to get double service out of the space now available. We have proposed the additional room only after a careful study of all the conditions."

Children living at a distance would find it difficult to meet the required attendance and now that the problem is more thoroughly understood a large number of voters have petitioned for another meeting to settle the question. No additional tax will be necessary to meet the cost of construction.

- March 25:** First Annual **Maple Festival**--Do you have a maple recipe you would like to share?
- June 24:** **Strawberry Festival**--Can we top last year's record turnout?
- July 8:** **Antique Transportation Exhibit**--Old Car Price Guide, a national antique car magazine called our 1989 show "the most fun show of the year."
- Sept. 30:** **Apple Festival**--A little before peak foliage season.
- Dec. 9:** **Christmas in the Park**--Co-sponsored with the Grange.

*The museum will be open every Sunday from June through October.
Throughout the season there will be special museum exhibits*

Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Middletown Springs, VT

Mr. David Wright
Town 05757

